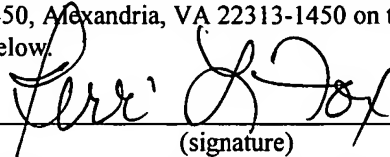




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

  
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Date of signature and deposit - March 30, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: STEFFENS et al.	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
Serial No.: 10/768,369	)	Examiner:
	)	
Filed: January 30, 2004	)	Attorney Docket: 24048
	)	
For: PROPANE TANK VENDING	)	
MACHINE	)	

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Sir:

Pursuant to Sections 1.97 and 1.98 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, record is hereby made of published prior art which the United States Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider during examination of the above-entitled application. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search was conducted, or that no better art than that listed is available.

U.S. Patent Documents - No., Date, Name

1,530,288	Mar. 17, 1925	Balkema
4,391,388	Jul. 5, 1983	Krakauer
4,498,603	Feb. 12, 1985	Wittenborg
4,778,042	Oct. 18, 1988	Warren et al.

U.S. Patent Documents - No., Date, Name

4,842,161	Jun. 27, 1989	Krakauer
5,176,285	Jan. 5, 1993	Shaw
5,253,782	Oct. 19, 1993	Gates et al.
5,313,393	May 17, 1994	Varley et al.
5,586,665	Dec. 24, 1996	Brousseau
5,829,630	Nov. 3, 1998	Fernald
6,206,237	Mar. 27, 2001	Dillon et al.
6,467,603	Oct. 22, 2002	Castleberry

Foreign Patent Documents - No., Date, Country

None


Publications - Author, Title, Date, Pages, Place

None

The relevance of the U.S. Patent Nos. 1,530,288 and 4,778,042 is discussed in Applicants' specification at page 1. The relevance of the U.S. Patent No. 5,829,630 is discussed in Applicants' specification at page 2. The remaining references relate in general to vending and dispensing machines.

A Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith. It is requested that each of the references be fully considered and made of record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JANUARY 30, 2004

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